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26 August 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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State Department review completed

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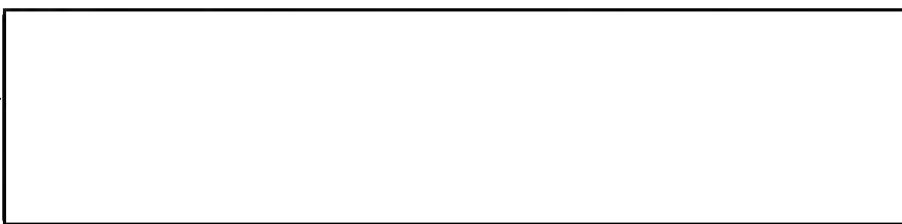
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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26 August 1964

DAILY BRIEF

*South Vietnam: (As of 0500 EDT) The Military Revolutionary Council (MRC) is now in session to pick a new chief of state, but resolution of the governmental crisis remains uncertain.

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Shortly after his resignation yesterday, Khanh told Ambassador Taylor that the MRC would dissolve itself after selecting a new chief executive, who would then be free to select his own ministers, the judiciary, and a provisional national assembly of politicians and religious figures. Khanh implied that this arrangement had already been endorsed by militant Buddhist leader Thich Tri Quang, who Khanh said had master-minded the current Buddhist/student campaign.

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Violence by Buddhists and students continued today in Danang, but security forces are belatedly taking action against the demonstrators. No further Buddhist/student incidents have been reported in Saigon.

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India: The Shastri government has moved swiftly and firmly to meet the first major challenge to law and order it has faced.

The pro-Moscow wing of the divided Communist Party has led nationwide demonstrations protesting food shortages and price increases. In response the government has arrested more than 2,000 agitators. Police and some army units have been put on a special alert.

The protests--some accompanied by violence--are scheduled to continue through 27 August, during which time many more will be arrested. As a follow-up, Communist leaders have called a nationwide 24-hour work stoppage in September when Parliament is in session.

The success of the "rightists" in mobilizing public support for their protests suggests that the party's ideological division has not diminished its trouble-making potential. In fact, competition between the two wings for mass support may intensify the government's security problem. The more militant "leftist" Communists, although remaining aloof from the current agitation, have announced that their own demonstrations will begin on 31 August.

Despite New Delhi's efforts to force prices down and to step up imports, there is little likelihood that the food/price problem will be appreciably eased until after the October harvest.

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